

The Times-Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY

Business Office.....115 E. Main Street.
 Manchester Bureau.....1101 1/2 1st St.
 Petersburg Bureau.....40 N. Spotswood St.
 Lynchburg Bureau.....215 Eighth St.

BY MAIL. One Six Three One
 POSTAGE PAID. Year. Mo. Mo. Mo.
 Daily without Sunday \$4.00 \$3.00 \$1.50
 Daily without Sunday 4.00 3.00 1.50
 Sunday edition only 5.00 1.00 .25
 Weekly (Wednesday) 1.00 .25 .15

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs), Manchester and Petersburg—

One Week.
 Daily with Sunday.....14 cents
 Daily without Sunday.....10 cents
 Sunday only.....5 cents

Entered January 27, 1902, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1908.

RHODE ISLAND'S GREAT OYSTER INDUSTRY.

During the months of January, February and March The Times-Dispatch said, in arguing for a change in the oyster laws, that good laws were responsible for the prosperity which the oyster planters in the Northern States were enjoying, and that bad laws would ultimately wreck the oyster industry of Virginia. These statements at the time were either pool-pooled or brushed aside as representatives of the tongue of the public rocks.

Laying aside for a moment any discussion of motive, and directing the attention of the public solely to demonstrable facts, The Times-Dispatch would suggest careful reading of the article in the National Magazine for December by Garnett Agassiz, in which the wonderful progress of the oyster industry in Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York is detailed, and the loss of business by Maryland and Virginia is impartially set down. Says Mr. Agassiz: "Among the dealers of the great West the Narragansett Bay oyster is fast replacing the Chesapeake Bay oyster, and in all sections of the land its popularity is on the ascendancy." This Mr. Agassiz believes is due to the fact that the whole of Narragansett Bay, over 15,000 acres, is practically one huge oyster farm, under careful cultivation.

Seventy-five years ago oysters were practically extinct in the Narragansett Bay waters, but some enterprising investigator tried the plan of importing Virginia oysters and planting them in Providence River. Up to 1830 no great progress was made, but in that year the fertility of the Rhode Island oyster seemed to be restored, and the industry since then has advanced by leaps and bounds. At that time Connecticut had already secured good legislation and proved the efficacy of scientific planting, and so when the oyster began to thrive in Narragansett Bay the Connecticut planters came down and took up bottoms, a step that was much feared by the local oystermen. To-day, however, the coming of the Connecticut planters is recognized as having been one of the great blessings for Rhode Island, since new methods and a new impetus created an undreamed of business.

In comparing the growth of the oyster industry of Rhode Island with that of Virginia, Mr. Agassiz says: "The Chesapeake Bay industry is still the industry it was forty years ago in its old-time methods of gathering and shipping, but owing to the lamentable depletion of its then supposed inexhaustible natural beds, is far less important. On the other hand, the Rhode Island industry, developed by capital and brains, nurtured by liberal State laws, and founded on the sound basis of private ownership, is steadily and irresistibly forging ahead." Mr. Agassiz finds the prosperity of the Rhode Island oyster planters in the natural advantages of Narragansett Bay, as well as in the good laws of Rhode Island. There is not the slightest reason to believe that Narragansett Bay offers better advantages for the cultivation of oysters than are to be found in the James River, the Rappahannock, the Potomac and the Chesapeake Bay. If there is complaint among the Virginia oystermen, therefore, the causes assuredly do not lie at nature's door. Another question arises:

"If Connecticut and Rhode Island revived a perished industry by passing good laws, what could not Virginia do if its magnificent natural resources were given equal opportunities?"

The statements of Mr. Agassiz, coupled with the complaints from Tidewater of the poor demand for oysters, add confirmation to the statements of The Times-Dispatch that the future for Virginia oysters under the present laws was most gloomy.

CONGO ATROCITIES.

Elsewhere in to-day's Times-Dispatch will be found a letter from a missionary on the Congo, addressed to a minister of the Presbyterian Church, who became familiar with the Congo conditions by actual residence, and who now is visiting America for a short vacation.

The letter from Dr. Morrison leaves no doubt that fearful and widespread misery is being endured by thousands of natives who were once self-supporting, free and happy.

At the request of The Times-Dispatch the Rev. Mr. Selig makes the following comments on Dr. Morrison's letter:

"As Dr. Morrison's letter will indicate, the notorious misdeeds of Leopold II. in the Congo Free State are growing worse rather than better. The military white officials residing in the Congo Free State are united with the negro lords of the rubber companies in their oppression of the black natives of that land. It is easy to see how this is the case. The state expenses must be paid by the products of the country. Ivory, rubber and copal form the bulk of the valuable exports. While the poor natives are heavily taxed they receive not a single benefit from it. They have no medium of exchange except near the coast; they have no roads;

Borrowed Jingles

KNOW,
 Kneedeep at the curbstone,
 In splendor on the pavement,
 In splendor of rubber overhoes,
 Your feet will not behave.

Motor car starts coughing,
 Next it breathes its last,
 Cabbies don't want a fare,
 'Till the engine starts again.

Room a Squallid sephyr
 With the shabby address,
 Cabs and cars are out of date,
 And no one has a heart!

JUST LAUGHTERS.
 An Ounce of Trevelin.
 Jimmie: "How did you know I was going to call?"
 Harry: "Little sister, I saw Neil taking the pint out of her belt."—Puck.

Why Jim Quit.
 "Have you heard that Jim has quit smoking?"
 "No."
 "Yes; you see, he is a little near-sighted, and after he had emptied his pipe in a powder barrel,"—Bohemian Magazine.

Naming Her Brand.
 Pearl: "In the first chapter of this novel it states that the heroine has hazel eyes. In another it alludes to her liquid eyes. I have named her 'Hazel Eyes.'—Chicago News.

Second Sight.
 "A case of love at first sight, eh?"
 "No, second sight. The first time he saw her he didn't know that she was his mistress."—Boston Transcript.

Waiting for the Other Fellow.
 "That woman has been standing under this mistletoe bush for the last fifteen minutes. Why don't you go and kiss her?"
 "Not I. She is my wife."—Detroit Free Press.

A Mistletoe.
 "Kisses are intoxicating," said he.
 "And I'm a mistletoe too,"—Louisville Courier-Journal.

A Real Genius.
 Knicker: "So Outlate has a good scheme?"
 Striker: "Yes, he starts a photograph striking ten when he gets home."—New York Sun.

PERTINENT POINTS.
 SHERENO E. PAYNE is having poor luck with the gentlemen whom he is calling "clients." He has refused to testify that tariff revision would be a bad thing for this country.—Chicago Record-Herald.

If Santa Claus did decline to put "brother Charlie" in Ohio's stocking last night, the children who are under the tree will not climb in of his own accord a little further along.—Washington Herald.

The saintliness of everyday life in Texas makes it hard for the people to understand why they should be so big game.—Houston Post.

European swindlers are circulated \$100,000 worth of bad money in the country were not inconsiderable. The secret service has enough on its mind without this foreign interference.—Washington Star.

President Roosevelt has pulled out about every stone in his power to get the organ, with varying results.—Chicago News.

There are persons here enough to deliver consolation from the thought that Christmas must be once a year.—Kansas City Times.

The best place to hang the mistletoe is on the family tree.—Charleston News and Courier.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

Pastor C. L. Laws, of Brooklyn, has a home that many mistletoes could make fortunate by going into business and practicing paragonage. "Show me," he says, "any man who has not been blessed with an average salary of \$15 a week, who dresses well, lives so well, educates their families so well, and who has saved so much for a rainy day."—New York Sun.

Rev. William Waith resigned last Sunday his pastorate at the Presbyterian Church at Lancaster, a village ten miles east of Buffalo, N. Y., after a ministry of thirty years, and five years, and will be made pastor emeritus. He has married about everybody in Lancaster, and done good far beyond the ordinary.

Even blindness is not allowed to prevent the children of Paris from learning natural history and knowing what birds and beasts are. The children of the blind are taught by the use of a collection of stuffed animals, which the children are allowed to touch and feel.

Mrs. L. B. Bishop, of Chicago, offered \$100 prize for the best verses favorable to votes for women in Chicago, and some of the best were submitted. The winner, "poems" tells the men voters that it is a burning shame that they should shoulder the burden of the world while the women are their helpers and the Mayor's.

An invention which, it is said, will revolutionize the curing of meats has been patented by a man who has been in the business for many years. He has used to cause the salt to penetrate the meat and thus prepare them for the market. The reduced curing time the present method requires.

The appointment of Henry S. Henchens, cashier of the State Bank of Chicago, as assistant to the governor of Illinois, is announced. The consular district includes the States of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri and Arkansas.

Of the highest rank in the New York City the highest are paid by saloons, which are taxed about double what could be got from any other business for the same premises.

WOMEN PAYING PENALTY.

Increased Death Rate Among Female Wage-Earners.
 Women have begun to pay the penalty for entering the fields of employment. The death rate among women is increasing, according to a mortality table prepared by Dr. William H. Guilford, registrar of records of the Health Department. He has compared the death rates for 1907 and 1908, and found that in 1908, for 65 years and over, 68.40 in 1907 and 67.30 in 1908. In tuberculosis of all kinds there has been a great reduction in the death rate for 1908. This is due to the growing percentage of deaths would be still greater from other causes the increase has been uniform.

Life insurance companies have long recognized this adverse condition, having observed the gradual increase in the deaths among women who are in business. While the health departments of the country over keep the statistics of the cause of death, the life insurance companies, which figure the dangers of risks to a nicety, are more active in their advancement in the light against tuberculosis, but even in that disease the statistics show that the mean average of death among women is shorter than the duration of life since 1868.—New York Tribune.

The Courts of Europe

By
 La Marquise de Fontenay

ABRUZZI SEEDS MOUNTAINS, NOT MARIANNA.
 PRINCE LUIGI, Duke of the Abruzzi, is now engaged in a quiet negotiation with the English government with the object of obtaining permission to approach Mount Everest, either from Nepal or from Tibet. Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world, and naturally the duke wishes to repeat there the feat which he accomplished in the case of Mount Kilimanjaro, and of Mount Ruwenzori, in British East Africa—that is to say, of being the first human being to scale its summit. The only hope of reaching the top of the mountain is by approaching it either from Nepal or from Tibet, and on political grounds access to these countries is denied to the duke. He must, therefore, make his attempt on the mountain from the north, and naturally the duke wishes to repeat there the feat which he accomplished in the case of Mount Kilimanjaro, and of Mount Ruwenzori, in British East Africa—that is to say, of being the first human being to scale its summit. 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